Faculty Association
Suffolk Community College
Executive Council
APPROVED MINUTES

Date: Thursday, March 12, 2026
Time: 3:45 pm
Location: via Zoom

1. Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2026, EC Meeting

- D. Morelli calls meeting to order at 3:47 p.m. Any corrections to February minutes? There was one abstention to the vote for K. McCoy stipend.

  ➔ Motion to approve February 12, 2026, minutes as amended made by M. DeMayo-Dalen and seconded. Motion is approved 22/0/3.

Secretary's note: One EC rep entered meeting after this vote.

2. Negotiations team

- D. Morelli: Need to finalize activation of all team members' FA gmail accounts so I can send notice for first meeting after Spring Break. Agenda will be background, timeline, and process for contract negotiations.

3. Beacon

- D. Morelli: Executive VP Courtney Brewer and I attended Islip High School Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, 3/10, where Superintendent O'Hara announced an extensive plan to offer SCCC associate's degrees in their high school, offered by Islip teachers. This is in direct contrast to what college administration has indicated to us. You can view meeting video online; it's the first item on the agenda so you can see for yourselves.

  For decades the college has been involved in a dual enrollment program, now called Beacon, but recently things have shifted in a way that's not academically sound. The FA has been integrally involved in the liaison piece of the program because that's what we have purview over in our contract. Our labor-management committee was focused on revising the liaison program because it was out of date, we needed to get our liaisons back in the high schools (it had been on pause), and we needed to embed elements to ensure better communication and academic quality, e.g., assessment.

  Now, however, we are upset about messaging from some of the schools offering Beacon. The Our contract says that the FA and admin must come together each year before April 15 to

discuss dual enrollment so that will be done. We know you are concerned too and need to hear from you and your constituents. EC reps, please share what you're hearing.

[*Secretary's note*: To organize the extensive concerns, the following list categorizes the issues and captures what was spoken during meeting as well as comments submitted in the Zoom chat.]

1) <u>Labor/financial concerns</u>

- Beacon is being used to outsource our jobs to local high school teachers
- Offering these classes in high schools costs more money per class than it does on a community college campus
- College administration is basically selling our credits
- Math department believes that increase in Beacon precalculus classes has resulted in a 65% decrease in precalculus classes offered here over last 13 years or so
- At least three courses are being offered in high schools even though not on list of approved Beacon classes; why is this, who approved this, isn't this a violation of the FA contract?
- Is the Beacon liaison handbook sunsetting on August 31 because the MOA signed last fall is sunsetting then? [MOA is effective through August 31, 2026, but handbook is policy and procedure so does not necessarily "sunset," although some provisions may be revised as necessary and appropriate based on renegotiation of MOA.]
- We need to see if changes to statewide regulations for dual enrollment through the state education department will help with this

2) <u>Academic standards concerns</u>

Academic quality

- We know they are teaching classes combined with some students there for AP credits, some for Beacon, and some just for high school credit; teachers are telling students, "if you don't pass the AP exam, you can still get college credit through Beacon;" these schools are double dipping with AP and Beacon classes
- Foreign languages has been seeing students come in to our 200-level classes after taking Beacon in high school but don't have anything close to required skillset they should have if they passed 100-level classes
- We know we cannot force high school teachers to use our SCCC materials, but we don't believe they are even using college-level materials; they are just teaching their regular high school classes and giving kids college credit anyway
- I was asked to review a course from LIU for transfer and could not believe that they are offering college credit for something that would be a 30-minute YouTube video

Credentialing

- In our department, we do not believe these teachers are properly credentialed to teach our classes; I received two resumes from teachers asking to be credentialed that are far out of date and do not reflect appropriate credentials

- Credentialing is a concern in the sciences; we know from our liaisons that teachers are teaching classes well outside of their area of expertise

Assessment

- Some teachers are refusing to do assessments we ask of them, but we are just trying to help them improve their teaching of our college classes; they are not doing anything close to proper assessments
- One teacher refused to do the assessment and claimed that their union encouraged them to refuse because they are having to do "more work" if they participate; yes, in our discipline too some Beacon teachers are just flatly refusing to do any assessment
- In chemistry we suggested Beacon teachers simply send outcomes of similar question from their own assessment but they are not answering; we're not trying to add to their workload, we just want student readiness

Liaison communications

- Our liaison's concerns are being outright ignored and rejected by some of their assigned teachers
- My department is deeply concerned about academic standards not being maintained
- When our liaisons schedule meetings with assigned Beacon teachers, attendance is very low and continues to drop as academic year goes on (example: out of 28 assigned teachers, only 5, then 3, then 2 teachers have shown up in remote meetings), this is very discouraging when our liaisons are trying to do the right thing

3) Administrative transparency concerns

- We are concerned about lack of transparency from administration; this is bad for the college and for good faith between administration and faculty
- We need more numbers on how many schools are involved in Beacon, how many teachers are credentialed and to what degree are they credentialed properly, and how many are teaching what they are and not supposed to be teaching
- There is a lot of missing data; we know there are good schools when it comes to Beacon and some Beacon teachers who communicate well with their liaisons and are eager to make sure they're doing it the right way… but without communication from admin we don't know; why isn't admin collecting and sharing this data?
- Counselors do not believe many students will be able to or will even try to get associate's in high school, not many are going to take 5 AP classes in a year or give up their whole summers to do this; this needs to be restructured

D. Morelli: Thank you all for sharing these concerns. The FA is fighting against the selling of our credits or outsourcing our work to local high schools. We are upset. In our labor-management committee last year we tried to engage admin in improving Beacon but feel that we've been lied to, misled, by admin. We were told one thing, but another thing seems to be happening. This is not acceptable.

I've been speaking with legislators and trustees to let them know that governance has been

talking about censures and votes of no confidence. Now, there is one certain trustee I've not yet spoken to—the one most eager to expand Beacon—but I will. We will also be working with NYSUT. The next SCCC Board of Trustees meeting is next Thursday, 4 pm, Montaukett lecture room at Eastern. We're asking FA members to attend wearing FA red; if any EC rep wants an FA tee or polo shirt, respond to the link we'll be sending. I know it's Spring Break, but we need to send a message.

4. New member social

- Our annual new member social will be held on Thursday, March 26, at 5 pm at Miller's Ale House in Lake Grove. All EC reps are invited as well as full-time and adjunct new members and their mentors. L. Behnke: We encourage new members to come meet us!

5. Member recognition and appreciation luncheon

- Our annual Member Recognition & Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 10, from 12 to 3 p.m. at the Snapper Inn in Oakdale. We will send out RSVP forms.

6. EC Rep Issues

- D. Morelli: As a follow up to an EC rep concern from last month, we inquired about counselors feeling Professional Development Day was "not meant for them" due in part to the program being labeled "Academic Affairs" on the cover. I was told this is only because expenses for the day came out of their budget, so I suggested next year it say, "sponsored by Academic Affairs."

- Are three-year elections for chairs and assistant chairs being scheduled for this year? — We are pushing for this with administration.

- Constituents are still asking about required Vector and ADA compliance training, although I've explained why there's not extra compensation for this. — This matter is already on our contract negotiations list.

- A constituent feels too many online classes is negatively impacting their chances of getting in-person assignments; is there a limit on how many sections are offered as DE? — There is no limit, but administration has the right to set the schedule. There are far fewer than during and right after Covid as more students are wanting in-person classes. The overall ratio of in-person to DE classes at the college tilts in favor of in person at this time.

7. Officers Reports

President Dante Morelli reports the following:

- As you've heard, I'm doing lots of work on Beacon and will continue to have conversations with Suffolk County legislators including the education committee, college trustees, and others
- On Sunday at the MVP Arena in Albany, 15,000 unionists showed up for a Fix Tier 6 rally

- Tonight is Foundation Gala; the FA is going to support the college and student scholarships despite current concerns about Beacon
- EC reps, remember to RSVP for the Miller's Ale House new member social and the Member Recognition and Appreciation Luncheon

Executive Vice President Courtney Brewer reports the following:

- Still no update on promotion decisions yet. We are unclear whether things are or are not on the president's desk; it was a large group last year so they had to extend admin meetings into February but we're still waiting for letters to go out
- I've conducted promotion workshops for the next round of applicants so if you or your constituents have promotion questions, please contact me

Secretary Cynthia Eaton reports the following:

- I held faculty development workshops and am conducting sabbatical follow up meetings; members are deeply upset by the ongoing pattern of only one sabbatical each year and other issues relating to administrative communications regarding sabbaticals
- Regarding spring elections, deadline for nominations passed last Friday, and I emailed all uncontested current EC reps that they'll continue upon certification at our May meeting; unfortunately, we'll have even more vacancy elections to run in the fall
- I updated our FA Google Groups, formatted and sent member excellent award nominations to committee chair Nic Pestieau, and we're working on *The WORD* which will come out right after spring recess

Treasurer Pete DiGregorio reports the following:

- Reviewing February treasurer report, note cost of Foundation Gala and new CD rate; adjunct member numbers are now finalized so we have 913 adjunct members (140 adjunct nonmembers) as well as 391 full-time members (0 full-time nonmembers)
- Adjunct dues will start next Thursday and go for four paychecks, our VOTE COPE continues to be extremely low due to retirements, and membership data was updated and sent to NYSUT

- I intend to resign as treasurer on June 8 and am committed to staying on to help train next treasurer for a year. FA Constitution and Bylaws states that if officer vacancy is for more than one year president appoints a search committee then presents candidates to you, the Executive Council, for your approval

    - D. Morelli: Let me know if you wish to serve on the search committee. Names of interested members in good standing should come by April 17, then we'll conduct the search process and present names to you at our May 14 meeting. More information will be in *The WORD*. Thank you to Pete for your years of service!

Grievance Officer John Capurso reports the following:

- We have four active grievances in process; I thank the FA grievance committee for their work
- Three are ongoing from our February meeting:

    - Two involve full-time members with improperly conducted observation processes: one has been advanced to stage 4 (Suffolk County director of labor relations) after the president's denial, and the second was denied at stage 2 (campus executive dean) and has been advanced to stage 3 (college president)
    - The third involves an adjunct member who was removed from the seniority list; this was denied at stage 3 (college president) and has been advanced to stage 4 (Suffolk County director of labor relations)
- The fourth grievance involves an adjunct member who was not granted a full-time interview for which we await stage 1 response from administration
- I continue working to address and informally resolve daily ongoing issues and concerns

Adjunct Coordinator Kim Ng Southard reports the following:

- All adjunct faculty members up for promotion last fall were approved by VPAA Rios and will be listed in next issue of *The WORD*
- A new adjunct office has been established at Grant in Nesconset room 4; this has no computer at this time, however, due to no admin staff; we also understand that new chairs will be coming to the Sagtikos adjunct office
- I've been managing usual promotion, seniority, and reimbursement questions and also helped one adjunct colleague have their online degree recognized so they're eligible to teach in a different discipline.

8. Old business

- None at this time.

9. New business

- None at this time

10. Adjournment

➔ Motion to adjourn made by D. Provenzano and seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 4:50 p.m.

Attendance: Members present on March 12, 2026

Officers

- ☑ Dante Morelli, President
- ☑ Courtney Brewer, Exec VP
- ☑ Cynthia Eaton, Secretary
- ☑ Pete DiGregorio, Treasurer
- ☑ John Capurso, Grievance Officer
- ☑ Kim Ng Southard, Adjunct Coordinator

EC Reps: Ammerman Full Time

- ☑ Alex Nohai-Seaman: Accounting, Business Administration, Business Information Systems, Legal Studies, Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, Philosophy, Women's Studies
- ☑ Sharadha Sambasivan: Biology, Physical Sciences
- ☑ Carl Corry: Communication, Languages, Reading, TV/Radio/Film
- ☑ Meghan DeMayo-Dalen: Counseling, Cooperative Ed
- ❑ Stephanie Taboada: Engineering, Computer Science/Industrial Technology
- ☑ Emily Lauer: English
- ☑ Deb Provenzano: Library, Central
- ☑ Alexander Atwood: Math
- ❑ Marlene Kellner: Nursing, Health and Human Services, Physical Education
- ❑ Christina Bosco: Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences

EC Reps: Eastern Full Time

- ☑ Mary Sierra: Library, Humanities, Counseling
- ☑ Nic Pestieau: Science, Math, Social Science, Business, Nursing, Culinary, Physical Education

EC Reps: Grant Full Time

- ❑ Eric Weinstein — Business, HVAC, CIS, Technology, Social Sciences
- ☑ Naomi Edwards — Humanities
- ☑ Tara Fagan — Library, Counseling, Media
- ☑ Anabel Darini — Natural Sciences, Math
- ❑ Josh Wolfson — Nursing, Health Science, Physical Education, Vet Sci

EC Reps: PAs & Specialists Full Time

- ☑ Lisa Behnke: Programmatic
- ☑ Jonathan Sadowski: Instructional Labs
- ☑ Ed Champ: Technical Areas/Instructional Centers

EC Reps: Collegewide Adjuncts

- ❑ Brian DeMasi*:* Business, Accounting, Communications, Telecom, Criminal Justice
- ❑ *vacant*: Counseling, Education, Freshman/College Seminar, and Professional Disciplines*
- ☑ David Price: English
- ❑ *vacant*: Foreign Languages, ESL, ASL, Reading, Library
- ❑ Steve Clark: Guild
- ☑ Dean Karahalis: Humanities, Arts, Music, Philosophy
- ❑ *vacant*: Math
- ☑ Jennifer Champagne: Physical Education, Health Sciences
- ❑ *vacant*: Nursing
- ❑ Kailyn Giaccone*:* PAs/ Specialists in Skills Centers
- ❑ Cathy Bondi: PAs/Specialists in Instructional Labs
- ❑ *vacant*: PAs/Specialists in Programmatic Areas
- ☑ Mary Griffin: Sciences
- ☑ Renee McClean*:* Social Sciences

* Professional disciplines are those that offer A.A.S. degrees or are more vocationally focused including Engineering, Automotive, Drafting, HVAC, Electrical Technology, Culinary, Interior Design, Fire Science

Guests

- ☑ Giselle Nevola*:* Student Support Services (G)